

REMARKS

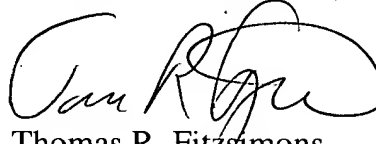
In the February 11, 2004 Office Action the drawings have been objected to under 37 C.F. R. §1.83(a). It is suggested that the “scattering defect” recited in claim 36 is not shown in the drawings. Claim 36 has been canceled herein with the result that the objection to the drawings is moot. Claims 11-13, 17, 23-36, and 38-43 have been rejected under 35 U.S.C. §112 as indefinite. The Examiner has referred to specific language in each of these claims that he believes renders the claim indefinite. The referenced language in all of these claims has been amended herein. It is sincerely believed that all of these claims as amended satisfy the requirements of 35 U.S.C. §112, and are therefore allowable.

The February 11 Office Action also requested that the Applicants verify claim numbering as indicated in the previously filed Amendment B, with particular attention drawn to claims 16 and 37. Applicants acknowledge that as originally filed no claim 16 was presented, and instead claim 15 was followed by claim 17. In Amendment A, claims were re-numbered to account for the missing claim 16. The Examiner objected to the renumbering of the claims in the July 29, 2003 Office Action. In response, the claims were presented in Amendment B as originally numbered with claim 16 identified as “blank”. Claim 16 has been cancelled herein. Inconsistency in claim numbering also resulted in the unintentional cancellation of claim 37 (as currently numbered) in Amendment B instead of the intended cancellation of claim 36 (as currently numbered). Claim 36 has been canceled herein to correct this. Also, claim 37, which was canceled in Amendment B, has been re-presented herein as new claim 45. Claims 38-40 have been amended to depend from new claim 45. It is believed that the claim numbering presented herein is acceptable.

In conclusion, it is believed that all matters raised in the February 11, 2004 Office Action have been attended to and that all remaining claims in their current form are allowable. If the Examiner should feel that any issues remain that require the Applicant's consideration before a notice of allowance can be issued, Applicant's undersigned Attorney requests a favor of a phone conference to discuss the same.

Respectfully submitted,

GREER, BURNS & CRAIN, LTD.

By 
Thomas R. Fitzsimons
Registration No. 40,607

April 12, 2004

300 South Wacker Drive
Suite 2500
Chicago, Illinois 60606
Telephone: 312.360.0080
Facsimile: 312.360.9315
Customer No. 24978